Dovetailing three Services under one Department

2732. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI K.M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring the three services of Army, Navy and Air Force under the head of one Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal for "one department".

(b) However, Group of Ministers (GoM) consisting of the Home Minister, the Raksha Mantri, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister has made detailed recommendations for reforming the National Security System.

(c) The Government *is* considering the Report.

Recovery of dues from Ex-PMs for use of Defence Aircraft

2733. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched proceedings for recovery of Rs. 22 crore from three former Prime Ministers for use of Defence Aircraft for non-official/political purposes as reported in the Press;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) whether similar action is being taken for use of IAF helicopter to Midnapur for visiting Keshpur, Garbeta and Chandrakona areas on 8.9.2000;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have filed suits in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for effecting recovery of Rs. 22,18,56,837/- on account of

airlift dues, with interest, from the former Prime Ministers/concerned Political Parties.

(c) No, Sir. The journey performed in IAF helicopter on that date had been in official capacity.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Recruitment of youth into Army from H.P.

† 2734. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that ever since Government had accepted population as a basis for recruitment in the army, the percentage of youth's being recruited into army from Himachal Pradesh has come down;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh had requested him through a letter dated 9th December, 1999 for increasing the recruitment of youth from Himachal Pradesh on the basis of recruitable male population; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, there has been no decline of recruitment in Army from the State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A reply, explaining the position was sent to the Chief Minister.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.